

Optical Field Reconstruction using Phase-Space Tomography

FINAL PROGRESS REPORT (3 copies)

12/21/99

Michael G. Raymer
U.S. Army Research Office

Grant Number: DAAH04-94-G-0416

Period Covered by Report: 9/30/ 94 - 9/29/98

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(1). Manuscripts submitted or published under ARO sponsorship during this period:

1. "Optical phase retrieval by phase-space tomography and fractional-order Fourier transforms," D. McAlister, M. Beck, L. Clarke, A. Mayer and M. G. Raymer, Opt. Lett. 20, 1181 (1995).
2. "Propagation of Wigner coherence functions in multiple scattering media," M. G. Raymer, C. C. Cheng, D. M. Toloudis, M. Anderson, and M. Beck, in Advances in Optical Imaging and Photon Migration, 1996 Technical Digest (Optical Society of America, Washington, DC, 1996), pp. 236-238.
3. "Measurement of the propagation of the Wigner generalized radiance function in a multiple scattering medium," M. G. Raymer, C. Cheng, A.C. Funk, H. Heier, in OSA Annual Meeting: Focus on the Life Sciences (OSA Proceedings, 1997). pg/114.

(2). Supported Personnel and Degrees:

Chung-Chieh Cheng, Ph.D. student
Daniel Toloudis, Ph.D. student
M. G. Raymer, PI

(3). Inventions: (none)

20000628 213

(4). Statement of Problem Studied and Main Results Obtained

Measurement of light transport in a random, multiple-scattering medium can provide details about the spatial structure of inhomogeneities within the medium. A precursor to this is the understanding of optical wave transport in a homogeneous, random dielectric medium. The goal is to measure the two-point optical field correlation function for continuous-wave laser light after propagating through a random-dielectric medium. This can be related to the Wigner function (WF), which is a quasi-distribution function representing the generalized radiance of the light. The WF contains both wave and ray-like transport behavior. A theoretical model should be developed that is capable of describing and predicting such optical transport.

Progress made includes construction of a new system for making measurements of the complex, two-point optical field correlation function for continuous-wave laser light after propagating through a random-dielectric medium, in particular polystyrene spheres in water. The new system is based on a Sagnac shearing interferometer, with a CCD camera and computer processor. Several important design issues, dealing with resolution and throughput were solved by use of optical design software.

The system was used in preliminary measurements of a variety of medium thicknesses and scatterer concentrations. Progress was made in developing a model for the transport. In certain cases good agreement between experiment and theory was found, but further work was called for. We were successful in observing and modeling the transition from wave-like (coherent) to particle-like (incoherent) transport.

This result provides a solid base for the next phase of the project, which is continuing into 1999 under a new grant.

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB NO. 0704-0188
<p>Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comment regarding this burden estimates or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.</p>			
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)	2. REPORT DATE	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED	
	12-21-99	Final Report 9/30/94-9/30/98	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Optical Field Reconstruction using Phase-Space Tomography		5. FUNDING NUMBERS DAAH04-94-G-0416	
6. AUTHOR(S) M.G. Raymer			
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAMES(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of Oregon Department of Physics Eugene, OR 97403		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Research Office P.O. Box 12211 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2211		10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER ARO 32887.3-PH	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES The views, opinions and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other documentation.			
12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		12 b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) Measurement of light transport in a random, multiple scattering medium can provide details about the spatial structure of inhomogeneities within the medium. Progress made includes construction of a new system for making measurements of the complex, two-point optical field correlation function for continuous-wave laser light after propagating through a random-dielectric medium, in particular polystyrene spheres in water. The new system is based on a Sagnac shearing interferometer, with a CCD camera and computer processor. Several important design issues, dealing with resolution and throughput were solved by use of optical design software. Quantitative agreement has been found between measurements and theory, providing new insights into the behavior of light as it travels in random media.			
14. SUBJECT TERMS phase retrieval, photon migration		15. NUMBER OF PAGES 3 including this page	
		16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OR REPORT UNCLASSIFIED	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UL